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Message Text

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45
ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OMB-01 ABF-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 AID-05 /086 W
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8802

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, EGEN, EFIN, EAID, IT, UN
SUBJECT: PROPOSAL TO STUDY CONTRIBUTIONS TO INTER-
NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

1. DURING JULY 7 VISIT, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS REP MINGAZZINI (OFFICE DIRECTOR, MULTILATERAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION) REQUESTED INDICATION OF USG OPINION TOWARDS CONSTITUTION OF CONSULTATIVE MECHANISM TO DISCUSS MEANS OF LIMITING BUDGET INCREASES IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS (MINGAZZINI REFERRED SPECIFICALLY TO UN AND ITS SPECIALIZED AGENCIES UNESCO, FAO, UNCTAD, ETC.). AS MINGAZZINI SKETCHED PROPOSAL, MAJOR FEATURE WOULD BE CONSULTATIONS IN NATIONAL CAPITALS TO ESTABLISH UNIFIED POSITION ON BUDGET CONTRIBUTIONS WELL PRIOR TO PLEDGING SESSIONS. MEMBERSHIP WOULD BE THAT OF GENEVA GROUP. PRIOR COORDINATION WOULD, ACCORDING TO MINGAZZINI, AVOID FRAGMENTATION AND LACK OF OVERALL CONSIDERATION WHICH NOW CHARACTERIZES SYSTEM WHILE NATIONAL CAPITAL VENUE WOULD INTER ALIA ELIMINATE SPECIAL PLEADING OF REPRESENTATIVES TO AFFECTED ORGANIZATIONS. IN RESPONSE TO EMBOFF'S QUESTION, MINGAZZINI SAID THAT REVIEW WOULD COVER BOTH OPERATING AND PROGRAM CONTRIBUTIONS; HIS IDEA WOULD BE TO ASSIGN FIXED AMOUNT AND ALLOW SECRETARIATS TO DECIDE MIX. MINGAZZINI ASSERTED THAT IT WAS UNREALISTIC TO EXPECT SPECIAL COMMISSIONS, REORGANIZATION AND MANAGERIAL INNOVATIONS TO ACCOMPLISH OBJECTIVE.
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2. EMBOFF NOTED THAT USG SUPPORTED NEED FOR EFFECTIVE UTILIZATION OF FUNDS BY INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES AND HAD ACTIVELY SOUGHT TO INSURE THAT OPERATIONAL COSTS WERE HELD TO MINIMUM POSSIBLE LEVELS. MINGAZZINI WAS REMINDED THAT USG HAD LED EFFORT TO HOLD DOWN SALARY INCREASES IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

3. ACCORDING TO MINGAZZINI, HE HAS BEEN CHARGED WITH EXAMINING OVERALL LEVEL OF GOI CONTRIBUTIONS TO INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND RECOMMENDING POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS. RESPONSIBILITY FOR GOI PARTICIPATION HAS TRADITIONALLY BEEN SPREAD AMONG VARIOUS OFFICES, HINDERING OVERALL EVALUATION. MINGAZZINI STATED THAT PROPOSAL ABOVE WAS STILL IN CONCEPTUAL STAGE AND NOTED THAT USG SUPPORT OR NON-SUPPORT WOULD DETERMINE POTENTIAL VIABILITY OF ANY EVENTUAL CONSULTATIVE MECHANISM. HE ASKED FOR AN INFORMAL READING ON THE USG POSITIONS.

4. COMMENT: CURRENT GOI REVIEW OF CONTRIBUTIONS AND DESIRE TO LIMIT PAYMENTS -- MINGAZZINI IDEALLY WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A ZERO INCREASE -- IS CAUSED BY GOI BUDGETARY CONSTRAINTS RATHER THAN BY ANY DIMINISHING INTEREST IN PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS. PAYMENT OF GOI CONTRIBUTIONS IS MADE MORE DIFFICULT BY COMPLICATED DOMESTIC BUREAUCRACY AND NEED FOR PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL. FURTHER, COST TO GOI HAS RISEN SHARPLY SINCE RECENT LIRA DEVALUATION (GOI PLEDGES IN DOLLARS).

5. TO EMBASSY'S KNOWLEDGE, GOI HAS NOT RPT NOT HERETOFORE PLAYED ACTIVE PART IN OPPOSING INCREASES IN INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS' BUDGETS. MINGAZZINI IS PROBABLY NOT FULLY AWARE OF EXISTING CONSULTATIVE PROCESSES AND MECHANISMS, NOR IS EMBASSY. WE RECOGNIZE THAT MINGAZZINI'S PROPOSAL -- WHICH IS UNLIKELY TO HAVE BEEN FULLY CLEARED WITHIN THE GOI -- LACKS DEFINITION AND MAY REFLECT PROBLEMS PARTICULAR TO ITALY'S BUREAUCRATIC REALITIES (I.E., BYPASSING REPRESENTATIVES TO INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS). NEVERTHELESS, WE VIEW MINGAZZINI'S PROPOSAL AS A WHOLESOME SIGN OF INCREASED GOI ATTENTION TO INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS. WE RECOMMEND A LOW-KEY SHOW OF POSITIVE USG INTEREST AND ENCOURAGING MINGAZZINI TO DEVELOP HIS PROPOSAL FURTHER. WE COULD ALSO ADVISE
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GOI OF EXISTING CONSULTATIVE PROCESSES AND ENCOURAGE ITS PARTICIPATION.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE ON A REPLY TO MINGAZZINI. BEAUDRY

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